

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please cancel the current Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract:

A modular switching device is disclosed which includes a plurality of interconnected modules, the modules having a control device module and a pole cell module, the modules of the switching device being interconnected with a shaft adapted to transfer a torque required for operating the switching device from one module to another module. The modular switching device is configured such that each module has a shaft element, and the shaft transferring the torque is composed of directly interconnected shaft elements.